

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS A KEY TO STUDENT LEARNING



Students enjoy learning in the outdoors

According to the report, *Closing the Achievement Gap: Using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning*,

Students will have

- higher scores on standardized measures of academic achievement in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies;
- reduced discipline and classroom management problems;
- increased student engagement and enthusiasm for learning; and,
- greater pride and ownership in students' accomplishments

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Outdoor Classroom Information sites

Visit

www.in.gov/dnr/nrec

Select the outdoor lab section

Or

<http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/>

<http://www.indianawildlife.org/>

**First Indiana Outdoor Classroom of the
Year award was given in 1977 to**

LaGrange High School

Individual Ned Stump



Avon School site 2004 winner



2005 winner

**NACS Environmental Center
(Northwest Allen County Schools)**

Nancy Leininger, individual

Visit

<http://www.nacs.k12.in.us/elms/enviro.htm>

To see information on their Environment Center

INDIANA OUTDOOR CLASSROOM OF THE YEAR CONTEST

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Committee**

**ENTRIES DUE
June 15TH**

INDIANA TREE FARM OUTDOOR LAB OF THE YEAR



The Indiana State Tree Farm Committee strongly encourages the development of outdoor education facilities. Without a doubt, classes taught outdoors are experiences that remain in the minds of students for many years.

You may call your site an outdoor classroom, outdoor lab, outdoor learning center, or a variety of other names. As long as you are including soils, water, wildlife, energy, forestry and other natural resource topics—we want you to enter our contest.

Any school is eligible to receive the award once, and schools not winning the state award are encouraged to reapply.



APPLICATION DUE:

By June 15th each year

To Tom Thake USDA Forest Service –
Hoosier National Forest, 248 15th Street, Tell
City, IN 47586

Application will be reviewed at the District level

Winners in each of the 6 districts

Certificate and \$50.00 for each District winner

District winners advance to the state contest

Judges will visit each district winning site in late

September or early October.

State Winner announce in November

A plaque for the winning school and person
most responsible for guiding the outdoor lab's
development along with \$500.00 will be
awarded at the

Hoosier Association of Science Teachers
(HASTI) Conference in Indianapolis
(usually held in February)

The state winner will have the opportunity to
showcase their outdoor classroom in a session
at the HASTI Conference.

Outdoor Classrooms will be judged on:

- 1) The Facility
- 2) The Curriculum
- 3) Overall Program Administration

Applications can be found on line at
<http://www.inwoodlands.org/>

Or by contacting:

Tom Thake

812-547-9248

tthake@fs.fed.us



**Luce Elementary
2002 Indiana Outdoor Classroom
winner.**

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